

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

***mpl* Ligand**

Isolated *mpl* ligand, isolated DNA encoding *mpl* ligand, and recombinant methods of preparing *mpl* ligand are disclosed. These *mpl* ligands are shown to influence the replication, differentiation or maturation of blood cells, especially megakaryocyte progenitor cells. Accordingly, these compounds are used for treatment of thrombocytopenia.